

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 NSF-04 SCI-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 641

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

REF: (A) PEKING 798; (B) STATE 170755

1. U.S. PROPOSAL TO BRING ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION TO UNITED STATES HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION BY PRC FOR NEARLY A YEAR. CHINESE REACTION TO OUR PROPOSALS FOR A STAY OF ONE YEAR IN U.S. AND TOUR OF SEVERAL CITIES HAS BEEN POLITELY BUT FIRMLY NEGATIVE FROM THE OUTSET AND HAS BECOME MORE SO AS OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE PROCEEDED. WHILE CHINESE WILL BE GLAD TO HAVE QUESTIONS OF WHICH EXHIBIT TO SEND AND TIME OF ARRIVAL SETTLED, THEY MAY WELL HAVE BECOME IMPATIENT OVER THE REITERATION OF OUR PROPOSALS ON LENGTH OF STAY AND NUMBER OF CITIES TO BE VISITED, AND COULD REGARD THE EXTENSION OF ORIGINAL PROPOSAL BY ADDING ELEVEN PIECES FROM TOKYO SHOW AND "TWENTY-ONE OTHER MAJOR ITEMS" AS AN UNWARRANTED PLAY FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT.

2. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, THE PRC IS VERY SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEM OF EQUITY IN ITS TREATMENT OF U.S. AS COMPARED WITH COUNTRIES SUCH AS FRANCE, UK AND OTHER STATES WITH WHICH IT HAS LONG ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. IT IS LIKELY TO TURN US DOWN IF WE DO NOT CONDUCT OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIAL TACT AND DISCRETION.

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3. WHILE WE SHARE THE DEPARTMENT'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PROJECT AND AGREE THAT A REVISED SHOW MIGHT WELL BE CULTURAL EVENT OF THE DECADE, WE QUESTION WHETHER USLO SHOULD TAKE THE FULL INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER, GIVEN OUR EVIDENT LACK OF EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITIONS.

4. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVE APPROACH:

(A) USLO INFORM MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF OUR PREFERENCE FOR PARIS SHOW, TO ARRIVE END 1974. AT SAME TIME, WE MAKE CLEAR OUR ADDITIONAL PREFERENCE FOR A YEAR'S STAY AND NATIONWIDE TOUR. WE THEN STATE THAT SOME SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ON THE CONTENT, TIMING AND ITINERARY WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH PRCLO IN WASHINGTON.

(B) DEPARTMENT, WITH HELP OF RESIDENT EXPERTS AND MUSEUM OFFICIALS, APPROACHES PRCLO WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. THIS WOULD BE COORDINATED WITH INVITATIONS BY DEPARTMENT AND MUSEUMS FIRST TO PRCLO OFFICIALS (AND/OR PRCUN PERSONNEL) AND LATER TO PRC MUSEUM CADRE TO VISIT MUSEUMS WHERE SHOW MIGHT BE HELD, TO SEE EXHIBITION SITES, DEMONSTRATIONS OF PACKING AND SHIPPING TECHNIQUES, ETC. USE OF AMERICAN EXPERTS AND INSTITUTIONS TO HELP PRESENT THE IDEA AND PUSH OUR POSITION WILL, WE BELIEVE, BE MORE EFFECTIVE WAY OF PRESENTING NOW SEEMINGLY UNPALATABLE IDEA, WITH PERHAPS A SLIGHTLY BETTER CHANCE OF COAXING PRC GRADUALLY TO ACCEPT IT.

5. REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.

JENKINS

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